

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:RWAHERNE

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

DOD/ISA/NESA:COL.FIFER

DOD/ISA/DSAA:LTG.FISH

L/PM:JAMICHEL

PM:MR.STERN S/S-JLHOGANSON

T:MR. LEWIS

NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

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O 120306Z JUL 75 ZFF5

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

USMTM DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 164709 TOSEC 060143

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY SUPPLY ACTIONS FOR SAUDI ARABIA

1. AMBASSADOR IS AUTHORIZED TO PRESENT TO PRINCE SULTAN  
FOLLOWING U.S. PROPOSALS IN RESPONSE TO SAUDI REQUESTS FOR:

(A) EXPEDITED DELIVERY OF 152 TOW LAUNCHERS AND 3040  
MISSILES; AND (B) ACTION TO SHORTEN DELIVERY TIMES FOR THE  
43 155MM SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZERS ALREADY ON ORDER AND  
SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY BEGINNING IN JUNE 1977.

2. TOW MISSILES - SAUDI REQUEST IS UNDER SYMPATHETIC  
CONSIDERATION. PENDING FINAL DECISION ON OVERALL  
QUANTITIES REQUESTED, USG IS PREPARED TO DELIVER 50 LAUNCHERS  
AND 500 MISSILES WITHIN 120 DAYS OF SIGNATURE OF A LETTER  
OF OFFER. IF SAG RESPONDS POSITIVELY TO THIS PROPOSAL, WE  
WILL FORWARD APPROPRIATE LETTER OF OFFER PROMPTLY.

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3. 155MM SP HOWITZERS - ALL PROGRAMMED PRODUCTION OF THIS ITEM IS FOR FOREIGN CUSTOMERS; THUS IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DELIVER NEW WEAPONS EARLIER THAN PROGRAMMED DELIVERY TIME. WE UNDERSTAND SAUDI INTEREST IN BEGINNING TRAINING AND FAMILIARIZATION WITH THIS WEAPON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND TO HELP MEET THEIR OBJECTIVES WE ARE PREPARED TO LEASE AT NO COST TO USG 24 REHABILITATED HOWITZERS FROM U.S. STOCKS FOR A TWO-YEAR PERIOD. THESE WEAPONS WOULD BE IN

THE SAME CONDITION AS THOSE ISSUED TO THE U.S. ARMY, AND WOULD BE SUPPLIED AT THE RATE OF ONE BATTERY (SIX WEAPONS) EVERY SIX MONTHS TO ALLOW ORDERLY PHASING-IN; AS PART OF THIS PROPOSAL WE WOULD OFFER TO PROVIDE A MOBILE TRAINING TEAM FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS TO TRAIN SAUDI SCHOOL CADRE AND TO ASSIST THEM IN TRAINING THE FIRST CLASS OF STUDENTS. TRAINING TEAM, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE OPERATOR AND ORGANIZATIONAL MAINTENANCE TRAINING AND UNIT TRAINING EXERCISE, COULD BE SENT TO SAUDI ARABIA ALONG WITH FIRST SHIPMENT OF REHABILITATED WEAPONS TO EXPEDITE TRAINING PROGRAM. IF SAG WISHES PURSUE THIS COURSE OF ACTION, WE WILL PROMPTLY PREPARE APPROPRIATE LETTERS OF OFFER; IN PRINCIPLE SAG WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COST OF TRANSPORTATION OF WEAPONS BOTH WAYS, APPLICABLE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, COST OF REPAIR PARTS USED FOR IN-COUNTRY MAINTENANCE, AND THE COST OF RETURNING THE EQUIPMENT TO A CONDITION SIMILAR TO THAT WHEN ISSUED, ALONG WITH COSTS OF MOBILE TRAINING TEAM. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TOSEC, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY TRAINING, MILITARY SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchant0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE164709  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** RWAHERNE  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750241-0350  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750760/aaaacbly.tel  
**Line Count:** 88  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchant0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <05 DEC 2003 by buchant0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MILITARY SUPPLY ACTIONS FOR SAUDI ARABIA  
**TAGS:** MASS, SA, US  
**To:** JIDDA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006